2:Musil S-4, 5 (no date) 1928 MD4 Rwala MD4

and plants on cool days. 8. *Jankûš* is said of one who delights in quarrels and in setting people against each other by carrying gossip and distorting their words. *Zibdet al-mḏâb*, melted butter, signifies invented, false stories, or calumnies. Melted butter is liked by everybody but cannot be the exclusive food, as it would cause death from dysentery; thus it is also with false stories. Pleasant to listen to, should the hearers make them a foundation for their acts, they would not meet with success. 9. He that cannot work, but lives and thrives on the sweat and toil of others, must perish as soon as they cease to support him.

Prudence

1. *Al-ḥâjeṭ bâlak tebni*
   illa-s-sâs ḥeğâreh kbâr
2. *w-al-bâjeh ḥaḏrak teẓnih*
   damhât al-bawwâh kṭâr
3. *w-al-marʿi ḥaḏrak terʿih*
   eljaʾ raʿejt erʿa-n-nwâr.

1. Beware of building a wall,
   Except when the foundation is of big stones.
2. Beware of taking an ingrate for thy companion,
   For much trouble he will cause thee.
3. Of land that has been grazed upon beware;
   If thou desirest to pasture, on blossoms pasture.

The poet was a settler from the oasis of al-Ğowf; the reciter, Ḥmâr abu ʿAwwâd.

Verse 1. As the houses in al-Ğowf (as in all the settlements of inner Arabia) are built comparatively high, their walls must have solid foundations. During the fights in which the settlers frequently engage among themselves a weak foundation could be easily broken through by the enemy, and the wall would collapse. For this reason only big boulders are used in foundations. 2. *Al-bâjeh* is a man without a heart, *mâ beh ḳalb*, devoid of sympathy, gratitude, and even of morals. Whoever takes such a man for his companion, *ḫawi*, on a long trip will suffer more troubles than could be found even in hell. 3. *Al-marʿi* is either a woman divorced by her husband or a widow. Do not marry such a one; rather take a blossom, a virgin.